

# *Sketch*

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## Joseph Neville

by Erika Mueller

tall as the tire of a grain  
combine, stands and peels  
the husks back. Knowing  
how to grab all the silk  
in one great pull, murmurs  
*making a mess of it, city girl.*

In the deep fresh  
pull of wild horse  
radish, he talks of roses;  
he can not keep them  
from climbing. I ask him  
what morning looks like  
dressing itself outside his window.

And I have almost caught  
him in the danger of his peonies,  
the way even the newest, strongest,  
firmest ones collapse, fall  
in on themselves given time.